



# President's Newsletter

Number 84. October, 1999.

## **2000 OUR TRANSITION YEAR!**

This coming January first is not just the beginning of any plain old millennium. It's the date when ISASC takes on an all-new look, starting with the resignation of your president. After all, I've been in office for 24 years (hard to believe, yes), and I've long contended that no one should be president of anything for more than 24 years! I'm officially out of office at year's end, but as part of the transition, I'll continue to handle several responsibilities, including, for starters, this coming year's convention in Seattle. However, the news that's really new is that our candidate for incoming president, unanimously endorsed by our officers and directors, is Tom Dooley. Tom is presently retired, is known to many of our members, has been active in ISASC for a number of years (most recently heading up an important committee), and is deep into scales, both as a collector and dealer. His background has been in state government and his credentials are most impressive. You'll see Tom's name heading up the enclosed ballot, about which we'll tell you more as you read on. Right now, though, more new news is that Jan Macho, having resigned as a director, has accepted the appointment as ISASC's Executive Secretary, a new position especially created for Jan in order for him to take on a good number of my duties and work closely with our new president during the transition year. Together, Tom and Jan, along with the rest of the officers, undoubtedly will provide us with the kind of leadership that will enable us to continue our growth and expand our horizons.

## **BY LAWS BRING ON AN ELECTION.**

Our By-Laws Committee -- Jerry Wilson, Norm Cima and Ruth Willard -- is busy revamping the document so that it conforms to changes recently voted on affirmatively by the present

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directors. Most pertinent changes are: (1) Requiring elected officials, as of 2000, to be voted into office by the entire membership (rather than the directors electing officers, as in the past); and (2) Designating each elected official, effective 2000, as an officer/director, thereby combining the functions (rather than having separate officers and directors, as in the past). These changes have been incorporated in the enclosed ballot, and we're asking each of you to exercise your franchise, cast your vote, and return your ballot to us in the enclosed envelope no later than November 30, 1999. Please do it now!

### **SEATTLE IS CALLING. LET'S ANSWER!**

Seattle is where we're going in 2000, and we're getting excited thinking about it. It's our first ISASC visit to the spectacular Pacific Northwest, and many of our members are already agog. The long weekend is from Thursday, May 4, to Sunday, May 7, and at the moment we're busy planning the program, which will combine things tried and true and others novel and new. Thursday, for instance, we'll leave from Seattle's downtown pier for a cruise to Blake Island and famed Tillicum Village, where we'll feast on an award-winning Indian style baked salmon dinner with all the trimmings and be regaled by authentic Indian entertainment. Friday we'll take in some of Seattle's most popular attractions but give ourselves plenty of time to browse Pike Place Market, a farmer's market unlike anything you've ever been to. From Friday evening on, we'll turn our attention to scales, scales, scales, and treat you to a few surprises as well as repeat favorites such as "Show and Tell" and our "Silent Auction." Saturday night will be highlighted by our festive reception and banquet, and Sunday's special programming, followed by lunch, will bring the convention to a fitting close. But that's not all. Based on an informal member poll in Atlanta, we learned that a number of convention-goers would be interested in a post-convention visit to two of the world's most exciting and scenic destinations, namely Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia. Which means we can do no less than look into it and do some preliminary planning. If it happens, it will be from Monday, May 8th, to Thursday, May 11th, and we'll give you an update on where we stand in our first convention mailing in early January. Meanwhile, mark the dates in your calendar and look through the enclosed Seattle brochure for a preview of the pleasures that await you.



**MINI-CONVENTION ENCORE.**

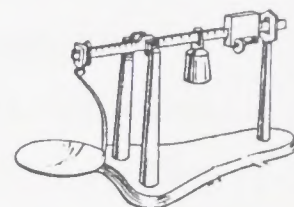
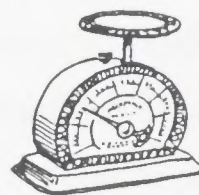
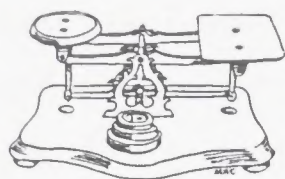
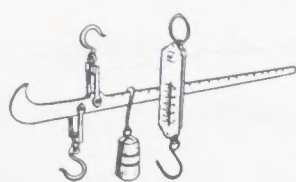
You'll remember our telling you about the member get-together last fall at the home of Ben and Mary Smith in Brooklyn, Michigan. Well, it was so successful that it was repeated this year on September 25, this time at the Utz and Shirley Schmidt home in Utica, Michigan. Eleven members, many with spouses, responded to the Schmidt invitation, toured the Schmidt Museum (scales and much more to boggle the mind), shared a mouth-watering luncheon buffet featuring Schmidt sausages, and did everything that scale collectors do so well when they're with other scale collectors. Those who came and enjoyed the day were Bill and Jan Berning, Jim Dietrich (who displayed a bowling ball scale and a turn-of-the century milk scale, both museum pieces), Ray and Donna Doyscher, Bill Kraft, Peter and Dian Laycock (from Toronto), Ned and Ruth Schaeffer, George and Delores Schultz, Ben and Mary Smith, and Bob and Margie Stein. A great time was had by all, and when goodbye time came around, everybody agreed that it was well worth doing again (and again), in the fall of 2000 (and beyond).

**WE'RE IN THE NEWS...AGAIN.**

Not quite as regularly as clockwork, but from time to time ISASC enjoys what is referred to among publicity people as "P.R. (public relations) exposure." And make no mistake. We love it, simply because it brings us and what we're all about to the attention of many people to whom our name and purpose are not known. And that awareness, in turn, often leads to new members. A case in point is member Dale Reed telling Carol Singer, editor/publisher of Cal Lab, the International Journal of Metrology, about us. Carol then took our background material and made us the subject of her magazine's Profile feature in the Nov.-Dec. 1998 issue. The full-page article is reproduced on the backside of this page, and we urge you to read it if you'd like a good overview of ISASC since its beginning days.



# Profile: International Society of Antique Scale Collectors



The International Society of Antique Scale Collectors (ISASC) was founded in September 1976 by Bob Stein, a Chicagoan with an extensive collection of postal scales. In its beginning days, the Society's membership comprised no more than 15 to 20 scale collectors, mainly from the U.S. and United Kingdom. In September of 1978, the Society was incorporated and its magazine *Equilibrium* began publication. At that time membership was composed of 30 collectors who began paying annual dues. Since then, membership has grown to around 600, representing 15 countries. In 1995 ISASC recognized the formation and autonomy of ISASC/Europe, composed of members from outside North America. Among ISASC's members are prominent metrology professionals, authors and scholars, including several with collections of 1,000 scales or more.

The organization's magazine *Equilibrium* is a quarterly publication provided primarily as a benefit to members. In addition, however, several institutions have become subscribers, including (in the U.S.) the Library of Congress, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Harvard University, Yale University; (in Canada) Canadian Postal Museum, Glenbow Museum; (outside North America) Avery Historical Museum (England), British Museum, National Standards Commission (Australia), Society for Collectors of Weights & Measures (The Netherlands), Le Systeme Metrique (France), Museum Für Waage & Gewicht (Germany), Museum of History of Science (England), National Museum of Scotland, and the Science Museum (England).

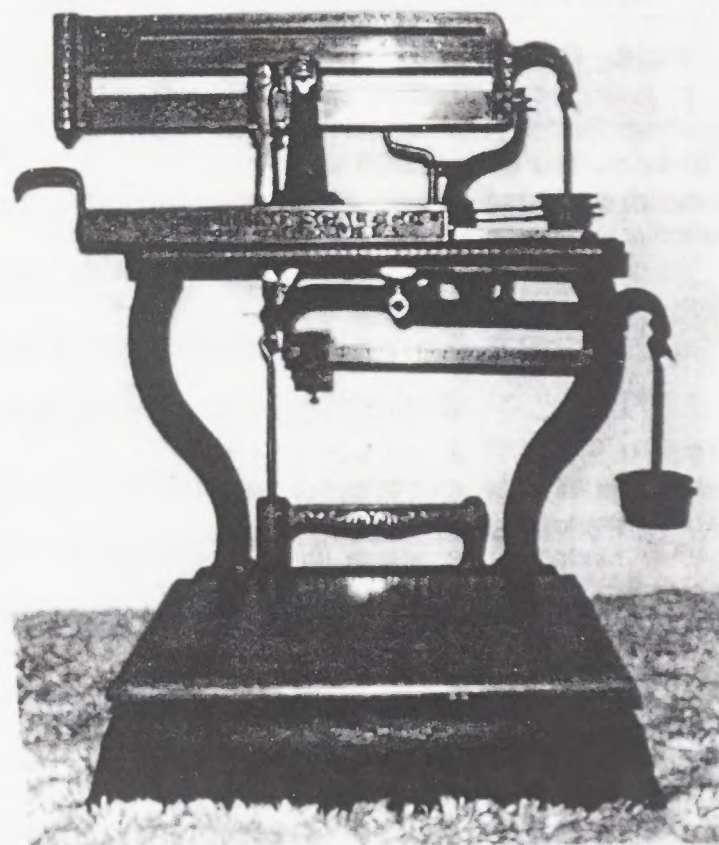
Each year ISASC and ISASC Europe separately hold one or more conventions, which are held in the U.S. and Europe. As part of the convention, members participate in field trips to local museums and private scale collections, displays of noteworthy scales and weights, lectures by metrology experts, an idea exchange forum and various cultural and social events.

Over the years the Society has reproduced and published a diverse selection of books, pamphlets and

catalogs (many otherwise out of print). The Society also publishes a quarterly member newsletter in addition to its magazine.

ISASC was founded so that people who collect scales could form friendships, correspond and meet with each other, and, in general, enhance the pleasures of collecting.

For further information, contact Bob Stein, President, ISASC, 300 W. Adams Street, Suite 821, Chicago, IL 60606; tel 312-263-7500, fax 312-263-7748; [www.isasc.org](http://www.isasc.org). For further information on ISASC Europe, contact Ron Wilkinson, Chairman, ISASC Europe, 28 Foxhill Road, Burton Joyce, Nottingham NG14 5DB, England.



Computing scale c. 1895. Photo from *Equilibrium* courtesy of ISASC.



### **GOOD NEWS ABOUT ISASC SOLVENCY.**

Each year we strive to manage the financial side of our convention so that we do no worse than break even, or, preferably, do even better by showing a net gain. The latter was the case at our Atlanta convention, where we showed a net gain of \$1,147.71, to which can be added literature sales of \$466.50.

### **SPRINGTIME IN SOLIHULL.**

Not the title of a song, but advance notice that ISASC Europe, our sister society, has scheduled its Spring 2000 semi-annual one-day meeting for Sunday, April 9, to be held at the National Motorcycle Museum, Bogay Hill, Henwood Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull, West Midlands, England (now there's an address). These get-togethers usually include a sprinkling of members from our side of the pond, and they're invariably entertaining, educational, and, if you manage to buy a scale or two, quite rewarding. If you're planning a spring trip to England and/or the Continent, you'll enjoy hobnobbing with friends across the sea who share our hobby. For details, write John Corfield, ISASC Meeting Secretary, Woodfield, Longhills Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6DS England.

### **A JOLLEY GOOD TALK.**

This past mid-March, member Jack Jolley was featured at an Elderhappening at the YMCA of the Ozarks in Potosi, Missouri. His subject, as you might guess, was Antique Scales and Balances, and he embellished his talk with 100 scales, lots of weights, and other visuals. His talk ran almost two hours, and each member of his audience, all seniors, gave him a critique rating of 5 on a scale of 1 to 5. Moreover, Jack's already been invited back next March to speak on the same subject at a similar event.

### **ARE YOU SHOWING OFF YOUR SCALES?**

Most likely. But, if you're looking for a source that can provide you with a choice of display cabinets, including custom-designed ones, we may have found just the source for you. It's a company called Showcase Designs, and they've given us -- for each of our members -- a brochure, price list, and letter from their sales manager describing their entire line. Yours is enclosed, and we'll let you take it from there.

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